

HYPENA CRASSALIS FABRICIUS (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE), THE BEAUTIFUL SNOUT, IN HERTFORDSHIRE — A single female of *H. crassalis* was caught in one of the Rothamsted Insect Survey light traps operating in Harpenden (Site No. 22, Geescroft 1, O.S. Grid Ref. TL 132 128) on the night of 13/14-vii-1985. So far as I am aware this species has not previously been recorded in Hertfordshire. The normal larval foodplant (bilberry) is not present in the area, therefore this individual is probably a migrant. The nearest known colony is approximately 29 km distant at Aspley Heath in Bedfordshire (Grid ref. TL 925 352). ADRIAN M. RILEY, Department of Entomology, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Current Literature

The Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland by Michael J. Roberts.

Volume 1, Atypidae to Theridiosomatidae, 4to., 229pp., 8 col. illu. and numerous line drawings. **Volume 3, all families**, 4to., 237 col. plates. Harley Books, Martins, Great Horkeley, Colchester, Essex, 1985. Vol. 1, £45. Vol. 3, £55. Vols. 1 & 2 together, £85.

Although there are several modern standard works on British spiders, notably those by Locket, Millidge & Merrett (1951-53, 1974), Bristow (1958) and Jones (1983), identification is still somewhat of a problem, and in the words of the author of the book under review, "the present work is an attempt to make identification of British spiders a little easier". The outstanding feature of these two volumes, is the exceptional quality of the coloured illustrations, which may even excell the, until now, incomparable plates in Blackwell's classic, *A. History of the Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland* (2 vols., Ray Society, 1861-64). A remarkable fact moreover, is that all the coloured illustrations in Dr. Roberts' book as well as the many hundreds of fine line drawings, were executed by the author himself.

Volume 1 is portioned into four sections. Section 1 (pp. 15-30) consists of an introduction which includes chapters on the external morphology of spiders; courtship, mating and growth; spider bites and poison; spider communication; collection of spiders; silk; preservation and examination of spiders; occurrence and distribution of British spiders; and finally, a bibliography of 72 items. Section 2 (pp. 31-34) concerns classification and nomenclature and has 13 line drawings. Section 3 (pp. 35-44) is a key to the families of spiders, and is illustrated by 70 line drawings. Then follows the main part, Section 4 (pp.45-224), which deals with all families